

IS
ZOMBIE
DEBT
STALKING
YOU?
BUSINESS /G-1



BRUINS
NOTCH
SIXTH
STRAIGHT
VICTORY
SPORTS /C-1

SUNDAY
CAPE COD TIMES
The Cape and Islands' Daily Newspaper © 2008

TODAY'S WEATHER
Mostly sunny, high around 40
B-8

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Bright lights,
big buoys

It's a cold and dirty job, but someone has to maintain the floating safety lanterns



After the 14,000-pound buoys are hoisted onboard, they're inspected and scraped clean.



STEVE HEASLIP photos/Cape Cod Times

The U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Juniper is responsible for more than 200 navigational buoys in the waters off New England's coast.

By PATRICK CASSIDY
STAFF WRITER

NANTUCKET SOUND – The U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Juniper has responded to some of the most notable events of the past decade. From the crashes of TWA Flight 800 and Egypt Air 990, to operations in the waters off New York City after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, the 225-foot ship has a long history in the short time since its 1996 commissioning.

On Friday, the Juniper was about 10 miles out in Nantucket Sound on a more typical, but no less important, assignment.

The Juniper is responsible for more than 200 navigational buoys in the waters off New England's coast.

Its mission on this latest pass through the Sound was to switch out one buoy, and replace the old solar-powered lantern on another with a more technologically advanced light-emitting diode.

The LED devices – about the size and shape of a bread box – are self-contained units that use solar power and can be programmed by remote control.

They replace a more expensive system of lanterns that were prone to malfunction

Please see **BUOYS /A-7**

BUOY BASICS



Douglas Duryea replaces old solar-powered lanterns in two buoys with more technologically advanced light-emitting diodes that are less prone to malfunction.

- 14,000 pounds each
- 12,000-pound sinkers, also called "rocks," sit on the sea bed
- Three sections of 1½-inch to 1¾-inch chain connections
- Horn, bell or whistle sound device
- Solar-powered lantern or new solar-powered light-emitting diodes flash in specific pattern depending on buoy
- Of 20 buoys in Nantucket Sound, 11 of 18 red and green buoys have been converted to LED; two have white lights

Source: www.uscg.mil/d1/units/cgcjuniper and U.S. Coast Guard Lt. Commander Rick Wester

Tuesday's
primaries
pivotal for
Democrats

■ Obama could seal the deal, but Clinton has a chance to recast the race for the presidency.

By LARRY EICHEL
THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER

COLUMBUS, Ohio – The long and captivating race for the Democratic Party nomination, destined to produce the first major-party nominee who's not a white male, has resisted all previous attempts to bring it to an end.

This week brings another chance for that to happen.

The Texas and Ohio primaries on Tuesday could make Barack Obama the presumptive nominee, rejuvenate the candidacy of Hillary Rodham Clinton, or leave her with a tough decision about whether to carry on.

No matter what happens, campaigning in Ohio – a state where the past often looks better than the future – has reminded the candidates why so many Americans have been so engaged in this campaign for so long.

There is a sense among some Democratic voters that something has gone wrong in America, making this a pivotal election, even a "desperate" one, as one undecided Ohioan put it.

ELECTION
2008



ANALYSIS

Please see **ELECTION /A-7**

Reflections from
inside the Fort

FORT MYERS, Fla. – Spring training is languid and seamless. For reporters covering it, especially the segment prior to games at the Minor League complex, it's also a bit like Groundhog Day.

Early morning wake-up calls. Hours bunkered inside a media trailer. Mornings and afternoons waiting, waiting, waiting – for players to arrive, for the manager to talk, for workouts to end.

But I'm not complaining. The weather is usually warm – although temperatures uncharacteristically dipped into the 40s last week – the sun is shining, and the Red Sox are playing baseball. It's not a bad gig.

Much of Red Sox Nation now makes annual spring pilgrimages to Fort Myers, even for workouts at the Minor League camp when there isn't much to see. They arrive at City of Palms Park as early as 7 a.m., fork over the



ROB DUCA

Please see **BASEBALL /A-6**

"I did feel it was now or never." – **MARISSA CHOUINARD**, Falmouth woman who has realized her dream of owning a home on the Cape

Market crisis is opportunity
to boost affordable housing

By DOUG FRASER
STAFF WRITER

Like many people her age, 31-year-old Marissa Chouinard saw her dreams of owning a home in Falmouth eclipsed by the skyrocketing home prices of the past decade. She's a single mother raising an 8-year-old son, a health care worker and a full-time student. She will graduate in May with a

teaching degree.

"I don't see how they expect anyone on a teacher's salary can stay here," Chouinard said. Still, she never considered moving off-Cape, where wages are better and homes cheaper.

"I have strong roots here. I've been coaching

Please see **HOUSING /A-6**



STEVE HEASLIP/Cape Cod Times

Marissa Chouinard, with her son Brian Reynolds, has bought a home in Falmouth. She could afford the move because the price of the house fell \$110,000 over the past year.

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CLICK
FOR MORE

See more
buoy photos
online at
[www.
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online.com/
media](http://www.capecodonline.com/media)

The 45 crew
members of
the Juniper
are respon-
sible for
tending
220 buoys,
including 20
in Nantucket
Sound.

STEVE HEASLIP
Cape Cod Times



Buoys: New technology for floating safety beacons

continued from A-1

even with five reserve bulbs that rotated in automatically when one burned out. Buoys have evolved since the middle of the last century from unlighted aids to acetylene-powered buoys to lanterns powered by a bank of batteries. More recently, solar-powered buoys allowed for the elimination of all but one or two batteries. Now the LEDs have become the light of choice for Coast Guard buoys. "It's less energy," said 40-year-old Chief Warrant Officer Mike Tomasi of Bettington, Vt. "Because it's an LED, you don't have to worry about a burnout." The LEDs use about 70 percent less power than the older lanterns and should last about eight to 10 years, Tomasi said.

SOS

As the ship pulled alongside Nantucket Sound Channel Lighted Bell Buoy 21 Alpha, the lyrics from the Police song "Message in a Bottle" floated above the sounds of chains and gear being readied. "Sending out an SOS. Sending out an SOS." Because the Juniper is the premier buoy tender in the Coast Guard's fleet, the tune seemed appropriate. But once the damaged and malfunctioning green buoy came alongside the black hulled ship, the music stopped and crew members on deck focused in on their target. "They're young, they're definitely young," U.S. Coast Guard Chief Boatswain's Mate Jill Carney, said of the riggers while looking at their blue, green and white hard hats. Young, perhaps, but experienced and organized. In the space of four highly choreographed hours, the dozen or so deckhands plucked a pair of 14,000-pound buoys from the Sound with the efficiency of a NASCAR pit crew. Each member of the team was responsible for tasks that ranged from cutting and welding chains the diameter of a small tree to scraping dense clumps of black mussels and red algae from the buoys' massive hulls.

Carney, a 31-year-old Michigan native, watched and shouted information carefully from the ship's forecastle – a higher deck at the stern of the vessel – as the buoys were hauled from the water by an enormous crane and jockeyed onboard with a series of guidelines and teamwork. Many of the deckhands were in their late teens or early 20s, Carney said. Age and rank could be determined for the most part by the color of their hard hats. Those in white, such as Carney, were buoy deck supervisors who could run the show, blue hats were qualified buoy deck riggers, and green hats signified someone who was breaking into the business of buoy handling.

U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Juniper

- Commanding Officer – Lt. Commander Rick Wester
- Homeport: Newport, R.I.
- Length: 225 feet
- Beam: 46 feet
- Weight: 2,000 tons
- Commissioned: 1996 as first of Coast Guard's 16, 225-foot seagoing buoy tenders
- Approximate crew: 45
- Onboard crane capacity: 40,000 pounds, 10,000 pounds auxiliary
- Responsible for 220 aid to navigation buoys from Sandy Hook, N.J., to Cape Cod; 140 are red and green buoys, and 72 percent of those have been converted to new LED technology
- Also active in immigrant interdiction, law enforcement and rescue, recovery and oil spill response

Source: www.uscg.mil/d1/units/cgjuniper

Securing the Sound

High above Carney and the buoys, U.S. Coast Guard Lt. Commander Rick Wester and a contingent of operations crew watched the deck and the Sound. "This is the end of the busiest month of the year for us," Wester, 40, of West Concord, N.H., said. The Juniper is typically deployed for a week at a time. Buoy tending is only one of several missions during that period. On average, the Juniper's crew works on between four and five buoys on a given day from 8 a.m. until dark, Carney said. "The cold days and the really hot days are the hard days," she said. Friday, although chilly, was relatively pleasant with sunny skies and calm seas. On this particular voyage, the ship also was tasked with delivering a new National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration buoy 50 miles offshore in the Gulf of Maine. The original tore free but was tracked by GPS and recovered to be refurbished. The yellow buoy, which looked more like a small boat or submersible and contains weather and other recording equipment, was tied down securely and within only a few feet of the large navigational buoys that swung on and off the Juniper's deck. Buoy-related work is far from the end of the Juniper's responsibilities. At the end of last year, the Juniper went south to the Florida Straits to help with immigration enforcement. At one point the ship had onboard more than 80 Cubans who were intercepted as they tried to make it to the U.S., Wester said. The Juniper also will be deployed to check fishing ves-

sels for safety violations on a quarterly basis, Wester said.

LEDs used around world

The Coast Guard's responsibilities have expanded, especially since Sept. 11, 2001. In 2003, Wester was onboard a buoy tender that was sent from Hawaii to Iraq, where buoys and the new LED signals are also in use. The LEDs, which cost about \$1,200 each, were used in Iraq before they were approved in the U.S., Wester said. The devices are built by Canadian-based Carmanah Technologies Corporation. The new equipment extends the time between inspections from two to three years. Still, the chain connecting the buoy to the 12,000-pound block of cement on the sea bed and the bells that warn mariners on foggy nights must be checked. Coast Guard buoys are replaced every six years and checked every two to three years unless a problem is reported. Mariners should report problems with buoys to their local Coast Guard station.

Buoy tending

On the first stop Friday, the tamperers that sound the green buoy's bell as it rises and falls on the waves were all useless. One was frozen to the bell, and the other three had fallen off. The old buoy was brought onboard and a new, freshly painted buoy complete with LED was connected to the cubicle-sized block. Dressed in dirty brown overalls, the deck crew adroitly maneuvered the second red buoy onboard. The hull of Halfmoon Shoal Lighted Buoy 18 was covered in mussels and red algae. While some crew scraped the buoy clean, Douglas Duryea, 24, of Brooklyn, N.Y., climbed on top of the story-high structure to install the LED. "It pretty much comes with experience," Duryea said, after dropping back down to the deck. Duryea joined the Coast Guard in 2006 because he wanted an interesting experience, much like many of his fellow crew members. Seaman Joseph Lopez, 21, also a Brooklyn native, joined the Coast Guard almost three years ago because he was bored. Lopez, a rigger, admitted he didn't know that buoy tending was an option. "I did not know until I was in boot camp and they ordered me to buoy tend," he said. Amid the smell and muck of the latest buoy, Lopez said the work was "OK." But Lopez and those around him wore smiles for most of the day that revealed satisfaction with a job well-done.

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Dems raise rhetoric as critical election nears

■ Clinton questions the depth of Obama's war opposition while he hammers her on NAFTA support.

CHICAGO TRIBUNE

FT. WORTH, Texas – Hillary Clinton belittled the sum and substance of Barack Obama's presidential bid yesterday as being based upon "one speech" opposing the Iraq war in 2002, but he contended her previous support of a trade pact unpopular with labor unions and her acceptance of lobbyist donations made her a poor agent for change. Both Democrats' campaigns prepared to close out the final weekend before this week's high-stakes primaries with visits to Ohio today including separate stops in Westerville. Clinton once enjoyed a comfortable advantage in the state, but her edge over a free-spending Obama has now grown tenuous. Clinton was in Texas for most of yesterday, the day after the end of the state's early voting period, which election officials said resulted in a massive turnout. She later ditched her traveling press corps as it was making a scheduled Ohio-bound flight and instead flew to New York where she was scheduled to make a surprise appearance on "Saturday Night Live." At rallies in Ft. Worth and Dallas, she made it clear she would be stressing a newfound theme of criticizing Obama's credentials to handle national security – in speeches and in a controversial TV ad – as likely Republican nominee John McCain is expected to focus on the issue as GOP candidates have traditionally done. "He (McCain) will put forth his lifetime of experience. I will put forth my lifetime of experience. Sen. Obama will put forth a speech he made in 2002," she told reporters, rejecting her rival's complaints that she was engaging in fear mongering. "Everyone knows that John McCain will

make this election about national security. That is a given. And it will be imperative that we have a nominee who is able to stand on that stage with Sen. McCain, and I believe I am the person best able to do that," she said. Obama has made his opposition to the Iraq war in 2002, before becoming a senator, a central theme of his presidential campaign. But Clinton urged voters to consider whom they wanted to answer the phone in the White House at a time of national crisis. "His entire campaign is based on one speech he gave at an anti-war rally in 2002," Clinton said of Obama. "And I give him credit for making the speech, but the speech was not followed up with action, which is part of the pattern we have seen repeatedly – a lot of talk, little action." Obama, holding front-runner status, traveled to Rhode Island, which is joining Ohio, Texas and Vermont in holding primaries Tuesday. Speaking in Providence, he repeatedly mocked Clinton for suggesting she could be an agent for change, contending she supported the North American Free Trade Agreement until she began seeking higher office. "Real change, for example, is not calling NAFTA a victory and saying how good it was for the American people until you decide to run for president, like Sen. Clinton did," Obama said. "That's not real change." Obama went on to recite his "not real change" theme in further criticizing Clinton for accepting campaign donations from lobbyists, which he shuns, and for her trying to explain that her vote to authorize the war in Iraq was actually a push for greater diplomacy. To buttress his point on Clinton's war authorization vote, Obama cited a former Republican senator from Rhode Island who has endorsed his candidacy. "Lincoln Chafee knew what it was," Obama said of the resolution. "We were voting for war."



At campaign stops in Texas yesterday Sen. Hillary Clinton belittled Sen. Barack Obama's opposition to the Iraq war, while Obama was in Ohio hammering Clinton for supporting NAFTA.



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Election: Tuesday's votes crucial

continued from A-1

For Obama, wins in both the Texas and Ohio primaries would mark the culmination of a stunning and improbable rise to power – coming at the expense of a founding partner of the party's ranking political family, a woman who'd been the front-runner for the better part of a year. He'd be able to launch an eight-month, general-election campaign against Republican John McCain – last week it seemed as though it had started already – and to unite Democrats behind him with little fuss or furor. But if Clinton were to win both events, a far-different scenario would unfold, one every bit as dramatic as all that has come before. Her candidacy would be very much alive, despite the 11 consecutive losses. Her supporters would be reinvigorated, her status confirmed as the preferred choice of the big electoral-vote states needed for victory in the fall. And Democrats would be facing the specter of a prolonged nomination battle, lasting through the April 22 Pennsylvania primary and perhaps longer. It would carry with it the possibility of real divisiveness down the road, with unelected superdelegates holding the balance of power. Less clear is what Clinton would do should she and Obama split the two contests. Her aides sound intent on proceeding, saying that anything less than an Obama sweep of the four primaries on Tuesday – including Vermont and Rhode Island – would signal the start of a Clinton comeback. "With all the advantages he has, if he doesn't win all four contests, it means there's a concern on the part of Democrats about him as the nominee," Howard Wolfson, Clinton's communications director, said Friday. "We'll see if voters begin to have some buyer's remorse." Working against her, though, would be the difficulty of raising more money, the lateness of the hour, and the daunting delegate arithmetic. "They have a huge task in front of them to erase our pledged-delegate lead," said David Plouffe, Obama's campaign manager, adding he expected tight contests on Tuesday with a near-tie in terms of delegates. "They're going to fail – and fail miserably." In the seven weeks between Tuesday and April 22 are only two events, the caucuses in Wyoming on Saturday and a primary in Mississippi March 11 – both of which look like wins for Obama. Barring some gaffe by Obama or damaging revelation about him, there'd be no way for Clinton to change the narrative of Obama being on the brink of the nomination, no chance for her to cut into his lead. The political void would be filled, presum-

ably, with even more superdelegates moving toward Obama and more top Democrats telling Clinton, publicly or privately, that it's time to stop. Perhaps that's why former President Bill Clinton and Pennsylvania Gov. Ed Rendell have indicated that Texas and Ohio are must-wins for her. In Texas, late polls show Obama even with Clinton or slightly ahead, despite Clinton's demonstrated popularity among Latinos. Several factors appear to be working in Obama's favor in Texas. One is the state's substantial and politically active black community, which is expected to represent more than 20 percent of the electorate on Tuesday. Another is the state's convoluted method of selecting delegates, which includes both a primary and caucuses. Throughout the race, Obama has dominated caucuses. In Ohio, Clinton holds a narrowing lead, according to the polls, thanks largely to the lower-income, older, blue-collar Democrats who have been a source of strength for her in many previous contests. During the last week, both candidates have gone back to basics. In her speeches, Clinton depicted herself as a fighter for ordinary people. In perhaps the most striking commercial of the campaign, she stressed her experience: "It's 3 a.m. and your children safe and asleep. But there's a phone in the White House and it's ringing. ... Who do you want answering the phone?" Obama, for his part, has stuck to his message of hope, spiced with an added helping of economic populism. There are a few more specific proposals thrown in, a few more shots at McCain and President Bush, and the occasional reply to Clinton. It's judgment, he says, not experience that matters when the phone's ringing in the White House. It's not just the appeal of the candidates or the dissatisfaction with the Bush years that draws voters to the race. It's how they feel about their own lives. "This really feels like a desperate election," said Janie Strain, 37, a teacher's aide who came to hear Clinton in St. Clairsville. "People have such a level of exasperation, the sense that they've been let down by their leaders. We've been overlooked long enough, blue-collar folks with average incomes, families to support, no special interests to represent us. ... "Our hopes are so high. And we're hanging them on the Democratic candidate, whoever it turns out to be, and maybe that's a very risky place for those hopes to be. In this election, we're either going to make a lot of people believers in America. Or people are going to get jaded, say the heck with it, and figure that what they think doesn't matter anymore."

What's at stake Tuesday: 444 delegates in four states. Obama leads Clinton by 153 pledged delegates.